

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

the Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting
Find us on the web at www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St Margaret's Anglican Parish Eltham acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship. We commit to working for reconciliation and justice for Aboriginal people. Diversity and inclusivity are important to us at St Margaret's.

O God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:
renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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Welcome our Locum

I am greatly looking forward to my time in your parish. I feel as if I am returning to my home as I come back to Eltham. When my husband and I were first married, we lived on the Woodridge estate and later moved to five acres in Gumtree Road where we built a mudbrick house and raised two donkeys named Mary and Puck. Around 30 years ago we moved to Ivanhoe where I had grown up. I currently have an honorary role at Georges East Ivanhoe where I attended Sunday School then taught

Sunday School as a teenager. After ordination I was appointed Chaplain at Christ Church Grammar School and I was a member of the ministry team of Christ Church South Yarra. I have been a teacher all my life. My Ph D is in Education. Secondary teaching was my first role followed by Tertiary teaching at La Trobe University. At Christ Church Grammar I worked with primary children after training in Godly Play. I have a particular interest in Jungian Psychology and Ignatian Spirituality and I have made the Spiritual Exercises. Spiritual Discernment remains a joyous and life-giving aspect of my personal journey. I am married to John and we have one married son. We are proud grandparents of a dear little boy named Gryphon. I look forward to worshipping with you while Keren is on a well-earned break.

Yours in Christ,
Linda



May Parish Council Meeting.

Parish Council met in the church. After opening with prayer our first item was to consider Chapter 2 of the Sam Wells book "A Future That's Bigger Than the Past". Helen Robertson and Christophe

A key concept is that "God gives us abundance of Kingdom to renew the poverty of the church".

By request the matter of Finances was elevated next on the agenda. As Treasurer, I presented my report to Council stating that the finances of the parish were sound, and asking support for a three year forward budget. The budget covers the period 2021-22 through to 2023-24. It provides for a two person Ministry team, plus existing support staff positions for the entire period. Provision is also made for planned and unplanned repairs and maintenance on all our parish properties, including a sinking fund to meet contingency expenditure on the Research Child Care Centre. Council voted to accept the budget and it will be presented in full to the Parish before our Annual Meeting in November. Finance Committee was also approved to conduct a review of hall hire.

Correspondence was presented and a letter from a parishioner was read to Council as requested.

Vicar Keren presented her report, then sub-committee reports were tabled from Pastoral Care Team, Do Justice, and Property Team (who made a recommendation that a new front door be installed. This recommendation was approved. Installation to occur asap.

In matters arising, Mandy Stevens was appointed Family Safety Officer and will convene a small team to work through future actions.

Parish Council gave in-principle to the Do Justice Team to continue their excellent work on the Yarning Circle. In particular St Margaret's will now apply for a range of public grants to fund the works, We will also convene a Committee of internal and

external members to provide oversight and guidance. Further regular updates will be provided to Council.

Finally Revd Christopher on behalf of Council expressed heartfelt thanks to Vicar Keren and prayed for her upcoming three months leave.

John Humann

Climate in Crisis

The third of our seminar series "Climate in Crisis – What Can I Do?" took place at St Margaret's on Saturday 22nd May. The previous two seminars were on the topics "Faith and Environment: What Grounds Us?" and "Climate in Crisis: What can be done?" Both earlier seminars were well attended and the third was similarly popular with 56 people present, most of whom were not parishioners. I will return to this point later. The focus of the third seminar was "Advocacy and Action", chaired by Vicar Keren and featuring speakers from Amnesty International and Tearfund Australia.

Katrina North from Amnesty International presented a model for advocacy in the field of justice, holding governments to account for human rights breaches and helping to free political prisoners worldwide.

Carrie Philpott spoke on behalf of Tearfund Australia, a Christian agency working for a just and compassionate world. In particular, Carrie shared stories of fundraising activities and international aid programs in developing countries with an emphasis on environmental justice. The audience applauded both speakers enthusiastically, and this was followed by a lively question and answer session. Then it was the turn of each of the sixteen invited local groups to make a two minute pitch to the audience. The aims and activities of each group were outlined, ranging from environment, conservation and climate action, to renewable energy, recycling and bushfire management. What a revelation! By prior arrangement, each group had an information and display stall set up in the

hall, and the groups were as diverse as they were complimentary. Those represented were:

- Amnesty International
- Australian Conservation Foundation (Menzies group)
- Clean Energy Nillumbik
- Climate for Change
- Country Fire Authority, Eltham brigade
- Friends groups Nillumbik - Eltham Copper Butterfly
- Friends of Woodridge Linear Reserve
- Great Tree Project
- Kinglake Friends of the Forest
- Moor-rul Grassland Group
- Northeast Region Permaculture
- Nillumbik Extinction Rebellion
- Nillumbik Climate Emergency Action Tea
- Recycling, Nillumbik Shire
- St Margaret's Action Group for the Environment
- Tearfund Australia

When people adjourned to the hall, they were just as eager to network and share ideas with the stall holders and each other, as they were to enjoy the excellent afternoon tea (Thank you very much to Jenny Constantine). So lively and spontaneous was the discussion that many people were loath to leave. An hour and a half later, people were still grouped in earnest conversation. All who attended appeared to be impressed by what St Margaret's had on offer in terms of facilities, atmosphere and opportunities for sharing and engaging.

Heartfelt thanks to all on the Mission Action Team, especially Mitzi Tuke and Diana Warrell who were tireless in approaching potential speakers and stall holders, locking in commitments, endlessly emailing people, preparing documents, managing the details. Thanks also to Harry for manipulating and managing the Powerpoints; thanks to all who helped set up and put away furniture and fittings in the hall and also the church; and thanks to Vicar Keren and Revd Christopher for chairing and facilitating and supporting.

Where to from here?

To return to the matter of the disappointingly low attendance numbers of

our St Margaret's people at these seminars, we should remember it takes time to change behaviours. First, we as parishioners must be convinced that support for the Mission Action Team is the right thing, and then it must be translated in such a way as to make our support the highest priority. Who knows? There may be some in the parish who don't even think we should be engaging with our target group of retirees or those approaching retirement age? Others may think that any attention to the so-called Climate Crisis is a diversion from the church's main mission. And some may be too pre-occupied with the business of just getting through each day to have energy left for mission.

Whatever the reason you didn't attend our seminars, we ask you to reconsider.

We will not attract people to St Margaret's by sitting waiting for them to come. As Revd Keren demonstrated in last Parish Matters (refer Issue 3, May Edition), there is a clear Pathway to bring new people into the church. But once the visitor has been "In Touch" with St Margaret's, it is the responsibility of each one of us to help that person "**to belong**". And that can only be done by each of us finding ways to **get beside** the new arrival. It's hard to get beside someone if you are absent! At all three of our seminars, visitors commented that St Margaret's plays a vital community role by hosting such events and provoking community conversations on such important matters.

We now have the challenge of devising attractive programs, activities, groups and events to encourage people we know to become regular participants. That will be the way to help people to belong. Please mark **Saturday 24th July** in your calendar as the date when the St Margaret's congregations will come together and don their collective thinking caps and begin the task of discerning our followup course of action.

In the meantime please pray for us and bring any ideas or concerns to Revd

Christopher, who will be convening the Mission Action Team while Vicar Keren is on leave.

Written by John Humann (for the Mission Action Team; namely Vicar Keren, Rev'd Christopher Garcia, Sandra Brown-Holt, John Humann, Mitzi Tuke, Diana Warrell, Harry Watson)



A Modern Fable (with apologies to Hans Christian Andersen, Rudyard Kipling et al)

Once upon a time in the Land of St Margaret's there was a Vicar with a vision for a mission. "Who will help me bring this vision to life?" asked Vicar Keren. And she searched and searched until she found five good St Margaret's folk to come with her on her mission to bring the vision to life. "Henceforth they shall be known as the Mission Action Team" she cried. And there was much talking and discussing and explaining, but alas, no speaking in tongues.

Then one day, dearly beloved, there came a minor miracle. The Mission Action Team (MAT) was transformed, and in no time (?) they became SAGE (St Margaret's Action Group for the Environment).

But lo and behold, though the good folk in the MAT were now a little SAGE, the people in the Land of St Margaret's were none the WISER, and only a little better informed. For in fact the weighty matters of climate change and environment were indeed complicated, and

the people of St Margaret's knew not how to proceed along the Pathway that had been MAPPED out for them.

"Shall we start a Friends group to care for our land? Or a gardening group to grow our food?" said the good folk of SAGE.

"Shall we petition politicians and be activists and advocates, or shall we work with like-minded groups across the land?" said others. And how shall we spread our message and welcome other folk to join our merry band and sing from our song sheet?" said Vicar Keren.

And there was still more talking and discussing and explaining, and there was much deliberation and contemplation amongst the good folk in the Land of St Margaret's, until one day.....(To be continued)

But dear reader, you can give the fable a happy ending. Help to discern our next step. Make a written submission. Come to our next meeting on 24th July to have your say

John Humann

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On May 16th 2021 approx. 35-40 people from the Eltham Montmorency churches gathered for the Ecumenical service for Christian unity. The service was held at Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham. Fr Terry Kean welcomed the attendees, our Vicar Keren provided the music throughout the service in which there were three vigils with Taize responses:

- First Vigil: Abiding in Christ – The Unity of the Whole Person;
- Second Vigil: The Visible Unity of Christians;
- Third Vigil: The Unity of all peoples and all creation.

The clergy from the Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches led the vigils and members of the congregation participated the Bible readings and Psalms.

Kathleen Toal

Helping Living with Dementia

As we are all well aware, the impact of COVID-19 has been variable as well as significant. We had been planning to have a follow up session on our Dementia Awareness and Management activity organised by the Pastoral Care Team in 2018-2019. Then we had presentations from Dementia Australia on the five main types of Dementia (there are in excess of 50) and a follow up on how to deal with some of the issues that arise for carers. The next planned presentation up on the services available for Carers and dementia sufferers was put off several times last year and now seems not available because of the impact that the pandemic has on volunteer organisations.

We are lucky to have amongst our parishioners Sheila Cheary whose extensive background in healthcare has included many years of professional experience in the problems and some solutions to dementia,



which is a condition that affects one in three people over eighty. She will be leading the introduction and discussion on **Living with Dementia** after 10 am church on **July 25** (starting at 11.45) and the opportunity to catch up at a pub lunch at 1.15 with the PC Team for some sharing amongst those with concern or just needing to unwind.

Sheila's presentation will cover

- Coping with changes as they occur
- The importance of planning ahead
- Understanding the unique needs of each person living with dementia
- Caring for the person at home
- Support for carers

And be supported with a resource package including helpful contact details.

It would be very helpful in managing the 45 mins question time if you were able to put **advanced notices of questions** in the foyer question box. For example, I immediately wonder 'Can I tell if I am just forgetful or has the illness already began?' In the event of the church foyer not being accessible you can put your question, addressed for Sheila's attention in the church letter box by the Dendy House driveway; or you could post it or email it to her at scheary@outlook.com

Harry Watson for the PC Team

1st Announcement

Living with Dementia

- ✚ What may change for me?
- ✚ How can I adapt my home to create an enabling environment?
- ✚ Caring at home for the person living with Dementia

You are invited to hear and participate in the discussion led by

Sheila Cheary. RN

Sheila has extensive experience in aged care, most recently as the Manager, Quality & Risk at Assisi Centre and as an Education and Training Manager

St Margaret's Anglican Church

Eltham - Sunday July 25 at 11.45

Changed Date

Option to continue the conversation at the 'Pub' over lunch at 1.15 pm.

Lodge your prepared questions when you register (free) with Jen 9439 9238 or in the Box in the Foyer



First delivery of Socks to Anglicare. See appeal below.

SOCKS and JOCKS

Appeal date extended

To 20 June

**For men who attend Anglicare's breakfast
at St Peter's East Melbourne.**

Missed Thankyous

Another pandemic mess up. On Trinity Sunday, last Sunday, Parish Council and the Clergy had arranged an opportunity for us all to say thank you to everyone for their gifts and effort that they put into keeping St Margaret's such a vibrant space and place for worship and community care.

Whilst we particularly wanted to recognise the ten or so people who have stepped down from formal duties, and those who find their contributions limited by health and family matters, we also wanted to acknowledge the several people who have stepped up to existing or newly created jobs and contributions. These thanks were to be extended to the support staff who make such a difference and whose activity often is taken for granted.

Past experience leads us to recognise that these thanks cannot be given effectively on Zoom, even though Trinity Sunday had the inspiration for working together as with Three in One.

Keren will find another occasion to do this but it may not be St Margaret's day as we may have the combined service led by a very rare visitor. Watch PM for news!!

In the meantime, know that you are so valued and loved for your contributions both big and small.

Harry Watson for PC

Monday Circle

At Monday Circle we talked about our dreams and looked at a picture of Audrey Hepburn lying asleep in the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. We made our dream trees from some manufactured balsa wood by tying on tags that described our dreams as well as making them colorful by tying various ribbons onto them. It was a gentle activity to do.

Helen Costello

All Saints Ladies Retreat At St Margarets

Recently, I was invited to attend a retreat with some 30 ladies from the Greensborough Anglican Church which was held in our church hall. A group of ladies had planned the activities on the theme of changing seasons. One of the activities was the composing of a collective psalm.

Jenny Disney

A season for everything.

God of encouragement, God of peace.

You have cared for me through every season of my life.

You have journeyed with me in the laughing and crying.

You have listened to me.

You are always trustworthy.

Sometimes I do not see you in all situations.

I fear control and do not spend time with you God.

The time you give slips through my hands.

Your seasons seem different to mine.

Sometimes you seem so remote, yet you are always there.

I search yet you are far away when my world seems dark.

I hope this virus goes away once and for all.

Calm me with your peace when I feel anxious.

Make clear your will to me.

Thank you for all the things I have never thanked you for.

You are the lamp to my feet, a light for all generations.

Your word directs my pathways, the rough and the smooth.

Through cold and heat, scarcity and plenty, or strife and comfort

You never change through all the seasons of our lives. Come let us sing in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord our God!

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11



Dream Trees.

PENTECOST

Well, what a service! Red, red, red everywhere. Bishop Kate came prayed with us, preached for us, celebrated the Eucharist baptised and confirmed. A wonderful welcome to Anna and Stephen Mott, plus congratulations to Anna on the occasion of her confirmation.





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